

[5th February 1924]

VI

PRESENTATION OF PETITION TO THE COUNCIL.

Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"Under Standing Order No. 71, I beg to present
11-45 a.m. a petition to the Council on behalf of the Madras Landholders' Association regarding the Irrigation Bill."

The Secretary then read the abstract of the petition.

VII

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE.

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTIYAR:—"I beg to move the adjournment of the House to consider an urgent matter of public importance, namely, the issue of the whip by the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government in connexion with the 'No-Confidence' Motion moved by my hon. Friend Mr. C. Ramalinga Reddi."

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"Before you give your ruling on the matter, I should like to state that it is necessary for the hon. the Mover of the Adjournment Motion to secure the support of twenty hon. Members. I may also state, Sir, that the matter has sufficiently been discussed already and that it is not a matter of urgent public importance."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTIYAR:—"On a point of order, under the Standing Orders, it is for you to say whether you approve of it or not. I do not think any speech is in order."

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"For your consideration I am submitting it, Sir."

(Voices of 'no', 'no'.)

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The Motion for adjournment is subject to the following restrictions:

'If the President is of opinion that the matter proposed to be discussed is in order, he shall read the statement to the Council and ask whether the Member has the leave of the Council. If objection is taken, the President shall request those Members who support the Motion to rise in their places, and if twenty or more Members rise accordingly, the President shall intimate that the Motion will be taken at 4 o'clock.'

"I now ask whether the hon. Member, Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chettiyar, has the leave of the House and request those Members who support the Motion to rise in their places."

Objection having been taken but more than twenty Members having risen in their places,

The hon. the PRESIDENT said:—"I think there are more than twenty Members in support of the Motion. The Motion will be taken up at 4 o'clock subject to the regulations and restrictions in the Standing Orders relating to Motions for Adjournment."

VIII

DISCUSSION ON THE ARTICLE IN THE "SWARAJYA" OF 20TH JANUARY 1924 REGARDING THE HON. THE PRESIDENT.

Rao Bahadur P. C. ETHIRAJULU NAYUDU:—"Sir, before you proceed with the business of the day, I wish to bring to your notice the wording of the article in the *Swarajya* dated the 20th January . . ."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Does the hon. Member wish to raise a point of order?"

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Rao Bahadur P. C. ETHIRAJULU NAYUDU :—"It is not a point of order, Sir. The dignity and the privilege of the House have been attacked in that article."

Rao Bahadur O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR :—"I rise to support my hon. Friend, Mr. Ethirajulu Nayudu. Sir, the practice and procedure of the House of Commons, in cases where the privileges of the Houses are attacked or where the impartiality of the Chair is questioned, is to take action against the offending person. So, I beg to support his application for action being taken against the *Swarajya*."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"It is undoubtedly true that under the procedure of the House of Commons, if the privileges of the House are attacked, or the impartiality of the Chair is questioned, the procedure obtaining is the summoning of the offending person before the House by the Sergeant-at-Arms who is specially appointed for such purposes. But quite apart from the circumstance that there is no such functionary like the Sergeant-at-Arms here, it appears to me that it is the inherent jurisdiction of this House that it should take notice—and severe notice—of any comments in the public press reflecting on the impartiality of one who stands and ought to stand above parties and commands the confidence of every section of the House and who is entitled to demand and receive the respect of the public. There is nothing more mischievous than an attack upon the President. This is again in the nature of an attack upon the impartiality of a Judge as to which a similar procedure obtains. Even if the Standing Orders do not allow it, I think this is an exceptional circumstance in which a convention should be established and it would be a wholesome thing if a convention was established of expressing our disapproval."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"Quite apart from other considerations, I would suggest to the hon. Member from Guntur to write to the Secretary and the matter will then be dealt with as upon an ordinary notice."

III.—ALLOTMENT OF DAYS FOR NON-OFFICIAL BUSINESS—*cont.*

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"The point that I wish to raise is this: it is stated that six days which were allotted by His Excellency the Governor for the transaction of non-official business have already been exhausted. It appears to me that it is not so. His Excellency at the commencement of the session allotted six days for non-official business. It will be remembered that no particular day was earmarked for the transaction of non-official business, as is the practice in other Provincial Legislative Councils and the Delhi Legislative Assembly. In other Councils certain days are earmarked for Government business and certain others for non-official business. On days on which Government business is to take place, Government business of course has priority, and when that is transacted, and if there is time left, non-official business can be proceeded with. So also, on days which are earmarked for non-official business, if there is any time left, Government business also can be transacted. It will be remembered by you, Sir, that no particular day was earmarked for the transaction of non-official business in this session. Because at the commencement of the session no Government business was ready, non-official business was proceeded with,

12 noon.